

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:ECHULEN:PAW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUKOQS/AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY 2755

CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

13AF CLARK AB PHIL PRIORITY

CINCPACREPPHIL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 096021

EXDIS MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM MANILA 24 APR.

QUOTE: S E C R E T MANILA 5267

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE MAP PROVIDED HARDWARE AND ASSOCIATED
REFUGEES

REF: A. STATE 93101 B. STATE 93158

1. IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES THAT U.S. SERVICE-FUNDED VIET-
NAMESE MAP AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS MAY ATTEMPT SAFEHAVEN IN
PHILIPPINES, FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT
ATTITUDES MAY BE HELPFUL IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

2. GOP VIEWS TOWARD EVACUATED VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS
WOULD BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY (A) OUR LEGAL JUSTIFICATION
FOR REASSERTION OF TITLE, (B) VOICED ATTITUDES OF HANOI AND
SECRET

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ANY NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON, AND (C) GOP PROSPECTS FOR
OBTAINING SUCH EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR OWN USE.

3. IF AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS SAFEHAVENED AT CLARK AND SUBIC,

IT IS LESS LIKELY GOP WOULD QUESTION OUR ASSERTION OF TITLE. IF HANOI TRIED TO MAKE ISSUE, BELIEVE WE COULD EVACUATE AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS BEFORE IT BECAME SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT WITH GOP. GOP'S TOLERANCE FOR CONTENTION WITH HANOI WOULD CERTAINLY INCREASE AT THE PROSPECTS OUR TURNING THE AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS OVER TO THE GOP.

4. SHOULD AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS ARRIVE IN PHILIPPINES AT POINTS OTHER THAN U.S. BASES, BELIEVE IT ALMOST CERTAIN GOP WOULD IMPOUND AND WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TURN OVER TO US REGARDLESS OF LEGAL ARGUMENTS. DOUBTFUL GOP WOULD RETURN TO SUCCESSOR VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND GOP WOULD HOPE IT COULD EVENTUALLY SLIP EQUIPMENT INTO OWN INVENTORY.

5. REFUGEES ACCOMPANYING AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS LANDING AT U.S. BASES WOULD BE VIEWED BY GOP AS USG RESPONSIBILITY AND WOULD ASSUME WE WOULD REMOVE FROM PHILIPPINES AS HIGH-RISK EVACUEES. REFUGEES ARRIVING ON AIRCRAFT OR VESSELS AT POINTS OTHER THAN U.S. BASES WOULD RECEIVE SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION FROM GOP BUT GOP WOULD ATTEMPT TO PASS THEM TO US, OR FAILING THAT, TO UNHCR. IN EVENT, GOP WOULD SEEK THEIR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO AVOID FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT IN FUTURE RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIMES IN INDOCHINA.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO SECDEF, JCS, SAIGON, CINCPAC, 13TH AF AND CINCPACREPPHIL.
SULLIVAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

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